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Gaining a sustainable IR: thinking SWOT

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Abstract: This paper aims to reflect about the next steps and challenges to gain sustainably to our Institutional Repositories (IR's).

We first reference the earlier stage of creating and getting start in the IR: what was needed to do, how we make it and how we are right now.

As most of the universities have an IR, now we are starting to think about what is going next.

The objective is to reflect, in a practical and objective way, what we need to do. We purpose to present a brief and concise vision SWOT analysis to each step of the way.

Our goal is to reflect about our challenges and prepare ourselves to what will it require.

We are finishing the “era of experimental repositories,” where we had many challenging ideas that could revolution the scientific community and their way to publish and research, and now we are entering a new phase: the “era of sustainability”.

First we faced many challenges and obstacles in order to create, implement, configure and organize an IR. Then, we needed to promote the concept and purposes of the repositories and of Open Access. Finally, we had to find competences and human resources in our small teams in the library to populate the repository with content in order to motivate the authors to continue that with self-archiving.

Now, most of the universities have an IR, with all the past content and we are still promoting the self-archiving and figuring out what more we can do with the IR towards the user's needs – authors and the institution.

We are exploring the IR's possible and meaningful functionalities and services and we thinking in new ways to promote and advertise in our community.

This paper will present the essential steps in order to retrieve gains from the IR and will also be presented a SWOT analysis of each one so we can reflect and prepare strategies to face it.

The strategies that follow in the sustainability of the IR are concerned about populating the repository with scientific content that will require promotion and training to self-archive.

One of the biggest author's concerns is about copyright issues that still are a mystic problem.

The training planning will need human resources in the library's team and the development of strong competences. To accomplish these goals is essential financial support and budget to libraries, so they can play the new roles required.

After this, one big step is the enrichment of the metadata to provide quality information and retrieval.

The university's commitment is essential to empower human and technical competences in the libraries services. By otherwise, we have to provide some results at first.

Finally, it will be given a SWOT analysis about the referred strategies. Although not being new, we still need to discuss how we are going to become successful and how we are will be able to change the research culture.

Keywords: Library, higher education, information management, challenges, Institutional Repository, Open Access, SWOT